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FRANKLIN/BONN

POLITICAL RADICALS IN PUBLIC JOBS?

ANNCR:

THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN THE BONN PARLIAMENT HAVE DEFENDED THEIR COUNTRY'S ORDINANCE AGAINST GIVING POLITICAL RADICALS PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS. DON FRANKLIN SENDS THIS BACKGROUND REPORT...

VOICE:

THE BONN GOVERNMENT AND WEST GERMANY'S DEMOCRATIC PARTIES ARE OUTRAGED OVER FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERAND'S INTENTION TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO DEFEND CIVIL AND PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS IN WEST GERMANY. MR. MITTERAND, WHOSE SOCIALIST PARTY IS ALLIED WITH THE FRENCH COMMUNISTS, ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE FORMED TO PROTECT VICTIMS OF WHAT HAS ERRONEOUSLY AND NOTORIOUSLY BECOME KNOWN AS THE BERUFSVERBOT. LITERALLY TRANSLATED THIS MEANS A PROHIBITION AGAINST PURSUING ONE'S OCCUPATION OR PROFESSION.

THE BONN REACTION CAME IN RESPONSE TO RENEWED WIDESPREAD CRITICISM OF THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S ORDINANCE THAT APPLICANTS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT CAN BE REJECTED SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS. THE COUNTRY'S CONSTITUTIONAL COURT UPHELD THE ORDINANCE AND RADICALS FROM THE LEFT AND RIGHT HAVE SINCE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT IN CASES WHERE IT COULD NOT BE EXCLUDED THAT THEY WOULD SUPPORT OR PREACH THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN WHAT ONE PARTY LABLED A CAMPAIGN TO AROUSE ANTI-GERMAN SENTIMENT IN EUROPE, THE PRESS OF SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAS RECENTLY CRITICIZED THE SO-CALLED BERUFSVERBOT, A TERM COINED BY WEST GERMANY'S LEFT-WING PRESS AND NOW USED NOT ONLY BY CRITICS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUT ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

(OPT) THE SWEDISH PRESS AND RAPID HAVE PUBLISHED AND BROADCAST INTERVIEWS WITH GERMAN RADICALS SAYING THAT ANY WEST GERMAN CRITICAL OF THE BONN GOVERNMENT IS DOOMED TO BE WITHOUT A JOB FOR THE REST OF HIS OR HER LIFE. BELGIAN TELEVISION COMPARED THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN WEST GERMANY TO THAT IN CHILE, SPAIN AND IRAN, CLAIMING THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CAN BE ARRESTED FOR ASKING THEIR PROFESSORS UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS AND THAT ONE CAN NO LONGER EXPRESS ONE'S POLITICAL OPINION IN WEST GERMANY. IN ADDITION, THE RECIPIENT OF THE WEST GERMAN PUBLISHERS' PEACE PRIZE, FRENCH PROFESSOR ALFRED GROSSER, WARNED THAT THE BERUFSVERBOT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A NEW WAVE OF ANTI-GERMANISM IN WESTERN EUROPE AND OPENS THE DOOR WIDE FOR DESPOTISM. (END OPT)

BUT FOLLOWING MR. MITTERAND'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS COMMITTEE TO DEFEND CIVIL AND PROFESSIONAL RIGHTS, THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT COULD SIT STILL NO LONGER. IN A RARE DISPLAY OF ABSOLUTE AGREEMENT, MR. GENSCHER, CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBERAL FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHO IS ALSO FOREIGN MINISTER, ALONG WITH THE LEADERS OF THE SOCIAL AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES POINTED OUT THAT THE CITIZEN IN WEST GERMANY TODAY ENJOYS MORE FREEDOM THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME IN GERMAN HISTORY. IN ADDITION,

THEY AGREED, REJECTION OF RADICALS AS TEACHERS OR IN OTHER PUBLIC JOBS IS IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT'S RULING.

THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE CRITICISM FROM ABROAD IS ENTIRELY UNJUSTIFIED AND THAT BONN DOES NOT FEAR ANY INVESTIGATION BY THE COMMITTEE. MR. GENSCHER EXPRESSED HIS ASTONISHMENT THAT THE FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER HAD NOT SAID A WORD ABOUT THE CONSTANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN EAST GERMANY.

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